



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 152

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2006

No. 60

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOUSTANY).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC, May 16, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

NSA'S PHONE RECORDS PROGRAM

Mr. DEFAZIO. I thank the Chair.

Well, when we first heard about widespread wiretapping by the administration without legal authority under the Federal Intelligence Surveillance Act, the President said not to worry, just a handful of individuals, and only when they are communicating with people outside the U.S. Well, maybe not a handful. Maybe a few hundred. No, maybe 10,000 or thousands.

Oops. Now it actually turns out that they are monitoring and have asked for the records of the phone calls of hun-

dreds of millions of Americans. Over a trillion phone call records, we are told. They say they need this to protect America. What are they going to do with this mountain of data? They are going to apply a complicated mathematical algorithm to it and they are going to find some terrorists. Thus far they have raided two takeout services and one call center. That is what they have yielded from this. How about good old-fashioned intelligence with humans and police work?

Let's look at the bungling that led up to 9/11. Actually the new nominee who headed the NSA who has perhaps perjured himself about these billions of monitored records, he had in his hands a communication from al Qaeda on 9/11, actually on 9/10, saying, tomorrow is zero hour. But the NSA didn't bother to translate that until after 9/11.

Then we had the FBI. Now, Agent Samit said he had a communication about Moussaoui from French intelligence in August after he had been arrested by the FBI saying he was very dangerous, indoctrinated in radical Islamic fundamentalism, completely devoted to radical fundamentalism and Osama bin Laden. But his superiors didn't think that was enough to give him a warrant to open Moussaoui's computer and perhaps stop 9/11.

That's why we need to monitor the phone calls of billions of phone calls made by Americans, because of the incompetence of the people running these agencies.

Now, Agent Samit sent a letter to FBI headquarters accusing Moussaoui of plotting international terrorism and air piracy. This is August. August, before 9/11. Then Agent Rowley came forward and also gave us the same information. Agent Samit also asked for help from the FBI's London, Paris and Oklahoma City offices, FBI headquarters, CIA counterterrorism center, Secret Service, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Federal Aviation

Administration, an intelligence agency not identified but presumed to be the National Security Agency headed by General Hayden who failed to translate the warning before 9/11. But we need to monitor the phone calls of law-abiding Americans, billions of them. What a wild goose chase. They want to cover up the extraordinary incompetence that allowed these stumblebumps to launch a devastating attack on America by saying they are doing something now by monitoring billions of phone calls. This is absolutely outrageous.

Let's go back a little further. There were two other guys involved, Nawafal Hazmi and Khalid al Mihdhar. Now, they were tracked to the planning meeting, pretty good work, by the CIA over in Southeast Asia. That's good. Unfortunately, they didn't have listening devices, they didn't have agents go through them, they didn't know what they were planning, but they knew they were bad guys planning something. Then they lost track of them. Where did they go? Well, they traveled legally to the United States of America with visas issued by the Bush State Department, they lived openly in San Diego with listed phone numbers, but they were never visited or monitored by the FBI or anybody else, even though the CIA knew these were bad guys.

But what are we going to do in response to this incompetence? Well, we'll give the people involved gold medals and great retirements. Mr. Tenet, who was heading the CIA, he got a gold medal for freedom from the President. No one has ever taken the fall for this incompetence. Now, instead, they are trying to divert us and say, what we're going to do is monitor all the telephone conversations of all Americans and apply a mathematical algorithm. So the next time we have a terrorist in hand, we won't open his computer, either, because we'll be watching the algorithms and the phone calls of law-abiding Americans.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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What unbelievable incompetence on the part of this administration, in addition to law-breaking. The American people are not well served by this. We need to clean up this mess and truly protect America.

NEWBORN SCREENING SAVES LIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday was Mother's Day. Across our Nation, America's mothers were honored with cards, gifts, flowers and phone calls. But for any mother, the most precious gift of all is a strong and healthy baby. Today, to help ensure that mothers receive that most precious of gifts, I am introducing the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2006.

Newborn screening is a public health intervention that involves a simple blood test used to identify many life-threatening genetic illnesses before any symptoms begin. Approximately 5,000 babies are born each year with detectable and treatable disorders. Forty years ago, these disorders would have gone undetected until symptoms appeared. As a result, these children unnecessarily died or suffered lifelong disabling consequences. Today, these severe disorders, mostly inborn errors of metabolism, can be detected in newborn babies and treated in time to prevent serious complications. But due to the fact that a national newborn screening law does not exist in this country, there is great disparity and variation from State to State in the quality and number of newborn screening tests an infant may receive. Consequently, each year approximately 2,000 infants are permanently disabled or die from otherwise treatable disorders. This bill could prevent these tragedies and save millions of dollars in health care costs to both families and States.

The Newborn Screening Act of 2006 seeks to eliminate these unnecessary deaths and severe disabilities by educating parents and health care professionals about the advisability of newborn screening and improves the system for follow-up care for infants detected with an illness through the newborn screening tests. The bill encourages States to uniformly test for all recommended disorders and provides resources for States to expand and improve their newborn screening programs. It also requires the CDC to ensure the quality of laboratories involved in newborn screening and establishes a system for collecting and analyzing data that will help researchers develop better detection, prevention and treatment strategies.

Mr. Speaker, somewhere in our country today, there is a mother holding

her newborn son or daughter totally unaware that her seemingly healthy baby is being attacked by a genetic disease because her State or birthing facility did not offer the one test that could have provided her with this critical information. If she knew, she could have begun the treatment needed to protect her baby from permanent disability or death.

Mr. Speaker, we have the power to help prevent this tragedy. By passing the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2006, we can ensure that parents and health providers are knowledgeable about newborn screening and that babies receive the comprehensive and consistent testing they need. It is a challenge we simply cannot ignore.

I urge my colleagues to join me in presenting a Mother's Day gift to the 4 million women who give birth each year by becoming cosponsors of the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2006 and helping to pass it into law.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, You are forever faithful.

Our history reveals Your constant protection and guidance of this Nation, so we have placed all our trust in You.

As Your faithful people, we are always optimistic about the future because we rely not on human endeavor alone, but upon Your promises. "I am Your Lord God. I am with You."

As Your people, we become a people filled with promise. That does not mean we expect to see everything fulfilled according to our own timing. We simply mull over the seed of promise in our own hearts and plant Your promises in others.

With hope rooted in Your promises, O Lord, we foster the growth of vision in a world of neighbors and in the next generation by what we say and how we act. You alone fulfill every promise and will recreate the face of the earth now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KELLER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS BELONG ON THE BORDER

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud President Bush's decision to place additional National Guard troops on the Mexican border. I recently returned from a week long trip to the Mexico-California border. And as this photograph shows, I met with National Guard troops who were constructing a border security fence in the San Diego area.

President Bush's decision has been criticized from two sources.

First, some American politicians have complained that National Guard troops have no business being involved with border security. Well, this photograph clearly shows that National Guard troops are already playing a key role in helping to secure our borders.

Second, Mexico's President Vicente Fox complained about the U.S. possibly militarizing our border. This is the height of hypocrisy. Mexico was the first one to put their military on their southern border to stop illegals from coming into Mexico from Guatemala.

The American people want less whining from the open borders crowd and more action from the rest of us to secure our borders. This is a step in the right direction.

RECOGNIZING ELIZABETH STEPP

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, thousands of high school students across America are participating in Poetry Out Loud, a national competition which helps students master public speaking skills and learn about their literary heritage.

On April 8, Elizabeth Stepp proudly represented Richland Northeast High School in the 2006 National Endowment for the Arts South Carolina Poetry Out Loud State Competition. After performing poetry before Poet Laureate Marjory Wentworth and Kwame Dawes, founder of the South Carolina Poetry Initiative, Elizabeth was awarded the South Carolina State Championship.

Tonight Elizabeth will represent South Carolina in the Poetry Out Loud